



MINISTERIO DA AGRICULTURA, INDUSTRIA E COMMERCIO

Directoria do Jardim Botânico

At Jardim Botânico,

Rio de Janeiro, 14 de Nov de 1929

Dear Prof Hitchcock, (Waiting for Dona Maria)
I've been botanizing in the herb. at Jard Bot. yesterday and this morning. Have just finished writing our label for 200 or 300 I think, Amazon and places I shall not visit. This building is open early (8 am) by cleaner and I have been keeping U.S. hours (8:30 to 5:30) instead of Brazilian. Mrs. Mexias boat is to arrive today "not before 1," how much later govern sabe.

Please tell Mr. Maxon from Miss Bandeira that the Bolivian plants of which he wrote her have not arrived. She was worried, but she showed me the letter and I saw they are coming through Smithsonian Exchange, so I told her they were safe but usually slow.

Dr Campos-Pinto has invited us to go to Itatiaia, time not specified, but after the Pico da Bandeira trip. I would be glad to go again and spend more time on Alto da Itatiaia while the others crawl up that chimney to the peak - that is just climbing, not collecting, and I had so little time on that wonderful open grassland.

Itatiaia is Government preserve and Dr C-P goes there rather frequently, I think. He assured me again that Pico da Itatiaia is the highest point in Brazil - I shan't dare to accept de Silveira's figures for Pico da Bandeira.

9:10 pm

Mrs. Mexia is here, after one last time of anxiety, not knowing for sure where Villanger passengers were to land - I was told two different places. She is very happy to be in Brazil at last and took the wretched mistake in cutting the paper good naturedly, so I am greatly relieved. The boat came in too late to get baggage off today and tomorrow is a holiday. I left her passport at Embassy for Mr Meyer to get baggage, but he may not be able to get it tomorrow. We shall probably start on Caparaó trip Monday morning.

Sunday pm. - Still raining, so I didn't go to Corcovado as I had planned. Mrs. M's baggage came late last evening so we start Tuesday 5:40 am. We couldn't get our baggage down today (for the morning) except by paying enormously. After getting Mrs M's money arrangements made yesterday morning, we went out to Jardim Bot and saw Dona Maria. Then it poured unexpectedly and we got soaked coming home.

I sent a package 2 from the Consulate yesterday. I received several letters, one from

NOV 14, 1929

Miss Niles telling me you are back. I hope
you are feeling well. She said you had
cleaned off your desk - this the day after
you came - so you must be feeling
pretty vigorous.

Miss Bandeira told me that Dahlgren
Field Museum was at the Jardim about
a month ago. He told them there to
send any collections they had to the
Field Museum, that there was no one
working on tropical plants at the National
Herbarium any more! I exclaimed at
that, that Mr. Killip and Leonard both
were working on tropical plants and
Dr. Maxon on the ferns. Dahlgren had
said now Standley was at the Field there
was no use to send anything to Nat Herb.
I said all I could to correct that impression.

If I were at Casa Contenta I'd make a
fire in the fire place. All I can do here is to put
on woollen stockings, wool dress and jacket
over it and shiver. Here is hoping for great
things on Caparaó. With very best wishes,
Sincerely
Agnes Chan

Mr. Maxon please note - a sh
Note. Inventing a line! W.D.M. 12/6/29

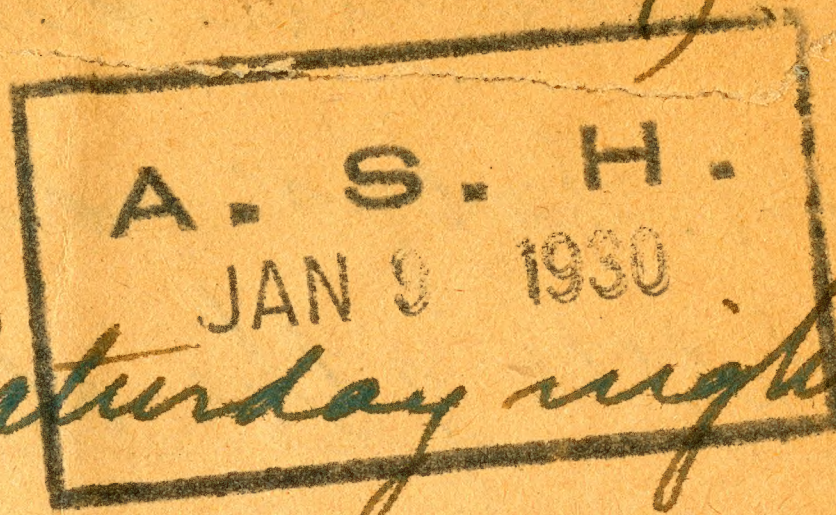
HITCHCOCK AND CHASE LIBRARY
Smithsonian Institution

Nov. 14

HITCHCOCK AND CHASE LIBRARY
Smithsonian Institution

Vicosa, Dec 17, 1929 (Tuesday)

Dear Prof Hitchcock,



We reached here Saturday night. heavenly place and most cordial welcome. Dr. Rolfs was pretty much exhausted by the doings of "commencement," which were Friday to Sunday. We, with the Rolfs, were guests at luncheon at the dormitories Sunday at 11:30 - a great spread, with speeches by everybody. Sunday night the diplomas were given, medals pinned on, speeches, music by a band, and very good music by a violinist, ending with a dance and buffet supper. I'd been botanizing all afternoon (got quite a lot) but stayed looking on at the dance with Miss Rolfs - who was longing to go to bed as much as I was. I

could understand quite a bit of Dr. Rolfs' address but precious little of the others. The students orated most gorgeously. Great changes have been made since I was here. I have a number of picture photo-^{for}postals showing the building, humans and other animals. It is a wonderful piece of work that is being done here. As Ambassador Morgan said, speaking of the Rolfs family, it is the most important work done by any American in Brazil.

Yesterday Miss Rolfs, Mrs. Mexia and I, two of the new young profs. from Cornell and four young Brazilians went mule back to São Geraldo, about 15 miles off, up hill and

down, collecting on the way. I got several grasses I did not get here before (different season) and Mrs. M. got a lot. It is still cloudy or drizzly and if it wasn't for the Rolfs' kitchen stove my collections would suffer badly. They are drying very slowly as it is. I had a mule with a most agonizing trot and am stiff and sore today. Prof. Muller (phytopath - one of the 3 from Cornell) is even less used to horseback than I am and feels the same way about it. We walked quite a bit, letting the Brazilians bring our mules. We came back on the train, the animals to be brought back today by two of the Brazilians. I enjoyed

it immensely. I am getting a lot
of forage grass notes from Dr.
Rolf for Grasses of Brazil.

Ponte Nova, Friday morning
I left Vicosa last night and go
west this morning, having to
stay overnight here. I got a very
good harvest at Vicosa - *Panicum*
trichidiachne Doell for the first
time, for one. It is such a heaven-
ly place to stay it is hard to
bear oneself away. Mrs. Mux
is staying on, to my distress, for
I fear I've shifted my white
elephant to the Rolfs, who are
already overburdened. The
Rolfs are going to Belo Horizonte
for Christmas but Mrs. Mux
said nothing about going
in and they told her she

Dec 17, 1929

might just as well remain during their absence, the housekeeper and cook will be there. She keeps one or two workmen - students busy changing and putting plants in press. She knows a good thing when she sees it, and she certainly appreciates the "eat." I'm afraid she will be there a long time. At the Sunday almog~~a~~ at the dormitorio, the Rolfs and ^{being} ~~their~~ company, guests, we were late, waiting for Mrs. M to black her shoes. Dr. R has lectured students and faculty.

on necessity of promptness
and when we all came in
late they joyously clapped
and clapped. Well, I've said
good by to Mrs. M. - I shall
feel relieved when I hear
the Rolfs have. They are
so very kind and hospitable
it is a shame to impose on
them.

Dr. Lisboa, the director,
showed me through the
school and dormitories
and shops yesterday, and
at the end told me the school
was "mine." I'm certainly
proud of "my" school. Dr. L.
is only 34 so he has a lifetime

before him to go on with
this work. I wish I had
time to write of it, but I'm
only using up time before
train leaves. I understand
Ambassador Morgan's statement,
and I think of what a vast
change there will be in a
generation in Brazil because
of this school. The plans
and work are so advanced
they remind me of Soviet
Russian "literature" (though
Dr. Rolfs would be aghast if
I'd said such a thing). There
is even a night school for
the laborers, most of whom
were wholly illiterate. The
whole is a joy to behold.

Dr. Rolfs does not seem well -
rather he seems old and
tired out. It is too bad.

I must quit. I hope
you are nearly as good as
new - better than new - by
this time. Dr. Rolfs was
most sympathetic. It is
too bad the Adams had to
miss a talk on Africa
from you. I left pkgs
at 4 and 5^{at Victoria} to go to Rio sometime,
and I left some tags for Dr.
+ Rolfs to send chaulmoogra oil
seeds to chemist in Dept Agr. These
will be marked to pass on
to Chemistry. Love and best
wishes to Miss Niles and Mr
Swallen. Very best wishes for
your health. Sincerely AC

Alagoas, Espírito Santo
Nov 21 1929

5:30 am waiting for
caminhão.

Dear Prof Hitchcock,

yesterday afternoon I

found your Olyra Rum-
paio near there and

it has tubers, regular little

potatoes are its roots. The

only grass heretofore known

with such is that East

Indian Lophocarpus gracile. But

that great. I got 8 or 9 speci-

mens, all I could find in

flower in a

immature, but good. I also

got a Pasp which I can't make

HITCHCOCK AND CHASE LIBRARY
Smithsonian Institution

(in my mental-key) anything
but that species of Boell
Panicum sergipianum if I recall
it correctly, based on a Spruce
collection. I only found 2, every
thing else was P. mutans.


Being a state I had not been
in before I am collecting
one or two of everything
and have put up a dozen
^{species} on 20 - wiped them off. We
are told the projected excursion
his mission difficulties, but
the senhor has could be discussed.
- Eating café (black) and
pão and answering questions,
one astonishing one was

"Esse senhor é sua m[ãe]
[That lady is your mother?]
Mrs. Mexia didn't understand
and I translated "what
relation are you?" She is

49 and I am as you
know extremely aged.

The above joke is NOT to be
passed on ^{beyond 40 years} but it was too
funny to keep entirely to my-
self. - Waiting for caminhão
6:30, it was to be here at 6,
but this is Brazil and with
Olyra campaiana found
and hopes of good things ahead
I, as well as this town, am
alegre. The potatoes on port
of O. camp are much more

(white-potato like than those
of L. gracile, they are so

 Gorgeous
species.

We go to Sta Barbara ^{da Caparas} by
carrição (150#) stay 5 days, it was 9 or 10
and carrição comes for
us. We can go then by
horses with guide a days
journey, then a foot 2 days
to Pico. If we get above
forest (matta) to open grass
land I don't care whether
we make the summit or
not and neither does Mrs.
M. It is plants not uncer-
tain climbing we are after

Nov 21, 1929

His baggage is all over-
lunningly enormous, &
his mine. He hopes he
will be willing to leave most
of it at Sta Barbara - it would
take forever to get packhorses
enough.

The matita is being cleared
here and there are great hills.
sides of young coffee trees. The
clearing is done by burning
the forest then hacking down
what is left and dragging
off the bulk of it. We see

Nov. 21